CLAIMS

1. Use of highly homogeneous serum albumin as a chiral selector.

2. The use according to Claim 1 wherein the highly homogeneous serum albumin is immobilised.

3. Use of immobilised highly homogeneous serum albumin according to Claim 2 in enantioselective chromatography or capillary electrophoresis.

4. Use according to Claim 3 wherein the chromatography is high performance liquid (HPLC) chromatography.

5. Use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the immobilised highly homogeneous serum albumin is immobilised on a silica matrix.

6. Use according to any one of the preceding claims to select an enantiomer of a chiral compound selected from an amino acid, an amino acid derivative, a sulfoxide, a sulfoxamine derivative, a racemic amine, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, an aryl propionate anti-inflammatory drug, an N-methylated barbiturate a benzodiazepine, a profen and a coumarin.

7. Use according to any one of the preceding claims to select an enantiomer of a chiral compound selected from warfarin, warfarin metabolites such as 6- and 7-hydroxywarfarin and warfarin alcohols, lorazepam (e.g. lorazepam hemisuccinate), oxazepam, temazepam, N-benzoyl-DL-leucine, tryptophan, benzoin, eprisone, chlorpheniramine, kynurenine, prilocaine, promethazine, donepezil and its salts (e.g. donepezil hydrochloride, sold under the trade name Asicept), thiopenfal, ibuprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, suprofen or fenoprofen and salts of these.

8. An enantioselective chromatography column comprising, as the immobilised phase, highly homogeneous serum albumin.

9. An enantioselective chromatography column according to Claim 8 for use in HPLC.

10. An enantioselective chromatography column according to Claim 8 or 9 wherein the highly homogeneous serum albumin is immobilised on a silica matrix.

11. Use of an enantioselective chromatography column according to any one of Claims 8 to 10 for affinity chromatography.

12. A process for selecting an enantiomer of a chiral compound, comprising the steps of

(i) exposing a mixture of enantiomers of the compound to highly homogenous serum albumin for a period to allow selective binding of one enantiomer to the albumin; and

(ii) separating the relatively unbound enantiomer from the albumin.

13. A process according to Claim 12 wherein the highly homogeneous serum albumin is immobilised.

14. A process according to Claim 13 wherein the immobilised highly homogeneous serum albumin is immobilised on an enantioselective chromatography column as defined in any one of Claims 8 to 10.

15. A process according to any one of Claims 12 to 14 further comprising the step of separating the relatively bound enantiomer from the albumin.

16. A process according to any one of Claims 12 to 15 wherein the chiral compound is selected from an amino acid, an amino acid derivative, a

sulfoxide, a sulfoxamine derivative, a racemic amine, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, an aryl propionate anti-inflammatory drug, an N-methylated barbiturate a benzodiazepine, a profen and a coumarin.

17. A process according to any one of Claims 12 to 16 wherein the chiral compound is selected from warfarin, warfarin metabolites such as 6- and 7-hydroxywarfarin and warfarin alcohols, lorazepam (e.g. lorazepam hemisuccinate), oxazepam, temazepam, N-benzoyl-DL-leucine, tryptophan, benzoin, eprisone, chlorpheniramine, kynurenine, prilocaine, promethazine, donepezil and its salts (e.g. donepezil hydrochloride, sold under the trade name Asicept), thiopenfal, ibuprofen, naproxen, ketoprofen, suprofen or fenoprofen and salts of these.

18. A process for increasing the purity of an agent that binds to albumin, comprising the steps of –

(i) exposing a relatively impure preparation of the agent to an affinity chromatography column comprising, in the immobilised phase, highly homogeneous serum albumin, under conditions that favour the selective binding of the agent to the albumin;

(ii) removing unbound components of the relatively impure preparation of the agent; and

(iii) eluting the agent from the affinity chromatography column to obtain a preparation of the agent with increased purity.

19. A process according to any one of Claims 12 to 18 further comprising the step of formulating the thus separated enantiomer or agent with increased purity with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, thereby to produce a pharmaceutical preparation.

20. A process according to Claim 17 further comprising the step of presenting the pharmaceutical preparation in a unit dosage form.

21. A use, an enantioselective chromatography column, or a process according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the highly homogeneous serum albumin is highly homogeneous human serum albumin.

22. A use, an enantioselective chromatography column, or a process according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the highly homogeneous serum albumin is highly homogeneous recombinant serum albumin.

23. An enantiomer of a chiral compound obtainable by a method according to any one of Claim 12 to 17.

24. A use, an enantioselective chromatography column, or a process substantially as described herein with reference to the examples.